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SECRET

FRP: , , , , , ,

STAFF

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1. THE BRIGADES OPERATIONAL STRENGTH (BOTH FULL AND PART-TIME TERRORISTS) CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 500 MEMBERS. WHILE THERE ARE NOT ACCURATE FIGURES ON THE NUMBER OF BRIGADES SUPPORTERS, THEY NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS AND VARY IN COMMITMENT FROM THOSE PASSIVE SUPPORTERS TO PEOPLE WILLING TO PROVIDE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.

THE BRIGADES CONSIST OF SIX SEMI-AUTONOMOUS COLUMNS BASED IN ROME, TURIN, GENOA, MILAN, VENICE, AND NAPLES. THE COLUMNS CONSIST OF A NUMBER OF SMALL CELLS THAT FUNCTION AUTONOMOUSLY BUT UNDER THE LOOSE DIRECTION OF THE "COLONEL" OF EACH COLUMN. THIS DECENTRALIZED ARRANGEMENT MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO DISRUPT COMPLETELY THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COLUMN.

AT THE TOP OF THE BRIGADES PYRAMID IS THE STRATEGIC DIRECTORATE, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY IN THE BRIGADES STRUCTURE. ACTIVITIES OF THE VARIOUS COLUMNS ARE COORDINATED AT THIS LEVEL, ALTHOUGH EACH COLUMN APPEARS TO HAVE CONSIDERED LEEWAY IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS.

THE BRIGADES FIND PRISONS A FERTILE RECRUITING GROUND, AND HAVE ORGANIZED A "PRISON FRONT" WITHIN ITALIAN JAILS. THE FRONT RECRUITS AND PROSLYTIZES AMONG COMMON CRIMINALS, AND ALSO RUNS A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM BETWEEN IMPRISONED BRIGADES MEMBERS AND THEIR COMRADES OUTSIDE.

2. WE ARE ALSO CABLING YOU TODAY A MEMO ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DOZIER KIDNAPPING FOR THE RED BRIGADES WHICH WILL BE OF INTEREST TO GENERAL LARSON AND OTHERS.

SECRET